



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

**SUBJECT: STATUS ON THE EARLY CARE
AND EDUCATION STRATEGIC
WORK PLAN**

DATE: 07-15-03

Approved

Date

BACKGROUND

On February 6, 2002, the Mayor in his State of the City Address made child care a high community priority and declared a child care crisis in the City of San José. Over the next four months, City staff held focus groups and worked with schools, early educators, health organizations, and private industry and other stakeholders to develop a new early care and education strategic work plan. On September 16, 2002, the Education, Neighborhoods, Youth and Seniors (ENYS) Committee recommended approval of the new Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan: *Investment in the Future 2002-2006*. The Plan was adopted by City Council on October 1, 2002. Each year, a work plan will be developed that presents accomplishments from the prior year and details objectives for the current year.

ANALYSIS

The PRNS Office on Early Care and Education Services has completed the Year One implementation of the Strategic Work Plan. In year one, PRNS Office on Early Care and Education Services accomplished most of the objectives outlined in the Strategic Work Plan. Accomplishments are detailed in Attachment A.

In addition to the completion of the Strategic Work Plan, the Child Care Commission was re-engineered and its purpose was aligned with the vision and mission of the new Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan. The membership expanded from 11 to 13 members in order to increase representation from community stakeholders. The Commission's name was changed from the Child Care Commission to the Early Care and Education Commission to reflect the field's focus on early education.

The Office on Child Care was also renamed to the Office on Early Care and Education Services; and staffing positions have been organized to allow for the full implementation of the Strategic Work Plan.

In addition to Year One Accomplishments, PRNS Office on Early Care and Education Services/Smart Start San José:

- received two awards in Fiscal year 2002 - 2003: Senator Barbara Boxer's Excellence in Education and the 2002 California Community Partnership Awards,
- was featured in several noted publications: San José California: Establishing Quality Standards, National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families, City Hall as Catalyst, *how a mayor can help improve education*; Education Week (volume 22 number 27), Giving Kids an Early Edge, *Smart Start Program sets stage for Kindergarten success*, San José Mercury News, Thursday, February 20, 2003,
- was featured in a presentation made by Deputy City Manager, Jim Holgersson at the National League of Cities Conference on Early Care and Education in June 2003, and
- was mentioned in the July 5, 2003 San José Mercury News editorial, *Don't Short-Change Head Start*, as a collaborative partner with Head Start of Santa Clara County.

Staff continues to align its current strategies with other community-based initiatives such as: Strong Neighborhood Initiative, First Five Santa Clara County, Santa Clara County Office of Education, the Local Early Education Planning Council, San José Public Library, Silicon Valley Economic Development Corporation, San José/Evergreen Community Colleges, Provider Training Resource Activity Center (PTRAC), 4C's, Santa Clara Partnership for School Readiness, and WestEd – Early Childhood Institute for Professional Development and Innovation to name a few.

Building on the accomplishments of Year One, the Early Care and Education Commission and the Office on Early Care and Education Services have jointly developed and are presenting the Year Two Work Plan (Attachment B).

The Year Two Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan is built on the assumptions that:

- There will be no new or additional General Fund dollars allocated for Early Care and Education Services in FY 2003 – 2004,
- Redevelopment Agency funding will be limited,
- The Office on Early Care and Education Services will be fully staffed,
- Collaboration and developing joint strategies with our partners is essential in order for the City to reach its objectives,
- The Early Care and Education Commission will work with staff to identify and seek additional resources, and
- All goals fall within the scope of existing General Fund allocations and secured grants.

COORDINATION

This report was prepared in coordination with the City Attorney's Office, the Budget Office and City of San José Early Care and Education Commission.

CONCLUSION

In this economic climate, the Early Care and Education Services staff continues its work to realize the City's vision that *all children enter school with the foundation needed for academic and social success*. Year Two of Investment in the Future: San Jose's Early Care and Education Strategic Work Plan creatively seeks ways and means to accomplish its goals and objectives by seeking outside funding and resources, and working collaboratively with community and early care and education service providers.

SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services